

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in the application and subject to restriction. Applicants elect the claims of Group I, constituting claims 15-19.

New claim 28 is presented, which is based on claim 20.

Claims 15-19 are directed to an *in vitro* assay to determine the ability of a substance to inhibit association of UL8 and POL. The substance is exposed to UL8 and POL. In claim 28, the ability of a candidate substance is tested to inhibit the association of POL with certain peptides. The peptides, set out in Sequence ID Nos. 5, 7, 11 and 12, are C-terminal fragments of UL8. Thus, claim 28 presents subject matter closely related to the subject matter of claim 15, and should be examinable with claim 15.

Joinder of new claim 28 with elected claims 15-19 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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